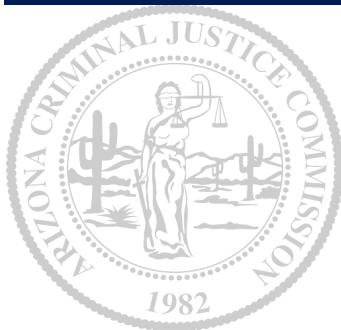


Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Statistical Analysis Center Data Brief



Arizona Violent Crime Trends CY2004-2013

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona.

December 2014

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is a valuable tool for analyzing the frequency and rate of crime in Arizona and across the nation. According to the FBI, the U.S. violent crime rate, as measured by four violent index offenses (i.e., murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), decreased in calendar year (CY) 2013, as did the Arizona rate during the same time. This data brief looks more closely at the

crime rate trends for the four violent index offenses in Arizona and the nation. The data used in this brief was voluntarily submitted to the FBI's UCR program by local police agencies across Arizona and the nation and was published by the FBI in their annual UCR program reports. Arizona county-level crime trend reports are currently being published and are available by clicking [here](#).

Violent Crimes Reported to Police

The violent crime rates for both Arizona and the United States (U.S.) decreased overall from CY2004 to CY2013 (Chart 1). During this time, Arizona's violent crime rate decreased by 19.5 percent from 504.1 violent offenses per 100,000 residents in CY2004 to 405.8 violent offenses reported in CY2013. During the same period, the U.S. violent crime rate fell 21.0 percent, from 465.5 per 100,000 residents in CY2004 to 367.9 violent offenses per 100,000 residents in CY2013. In line with the ten-year trends, both the Arizona and U.S. violent crime rates decreased from CY2012 to CY2013. The Arizona violent crime rate remains higher than the nation's violent crime rate, as has been the case since CY2010.

Chart 1. Reported Violent Index Offense Rates
CY2004-2013

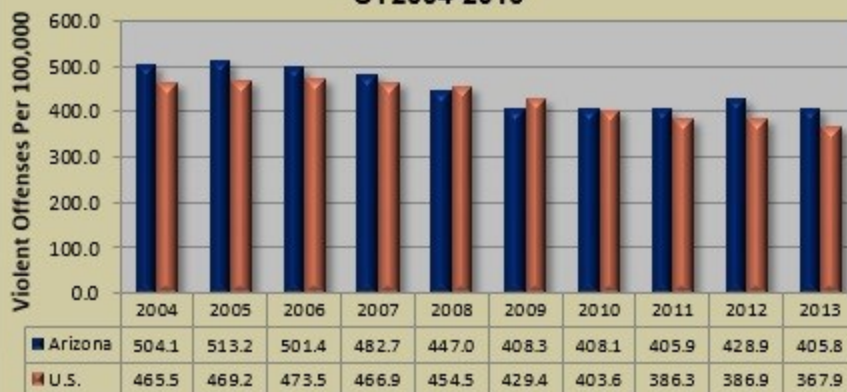


Chart 2. Reported Murder/Non-Negligent
Manslaughter Homicide Rates, CY2004-2013



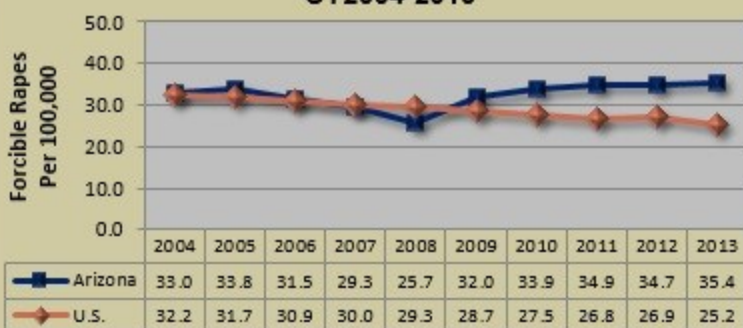
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter Reported to Police

Since CY2007, Arizona and the U.S. experienced a decrease in the murder and non-negligent manslaughter rate (Chart 2). Over the ten-year period, Arizona's rate decreased 25.0 percent from 7.2 reported incidents per 100,000 residents in CY2004 to 5.4 in CY2013. The nation's homicide rate decreased 18.2 percent from CY2004 to CY2013. Over the entire ten-year period, the rate of murder/non-negligent manslaughter was higher in Arizona than in the United States.

Forcible Rape Reported to Police

The rate of forcible rape reported to law enforcement in Arizona is the only violent index offense rate that did not decrease from CY2004 to CY2013 (Chart 3). The forcible rape rate in Arizona fell from 33.0 incidents per 100,000 residents in CY2004 to a low of 25.7 in CY2008 before increasing to 35.4 in CY2013. The U.S. forcible rape rate decreased from 32.2 in CY2004 to 25.2 in CY2013.

Chart 3. Reported Forcible Rape Rates
CY2004-2013

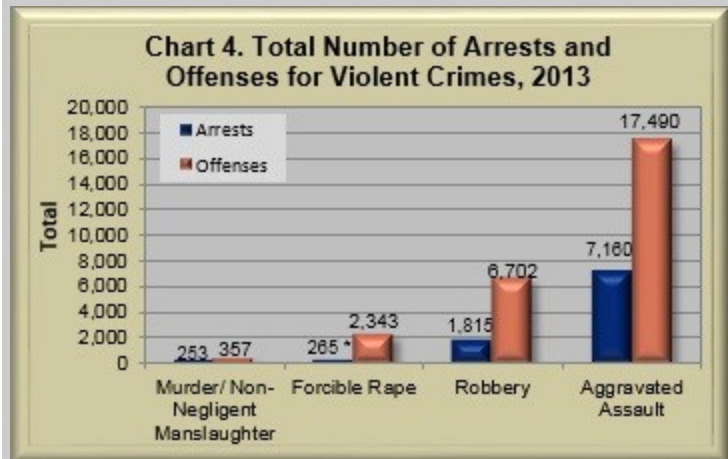


Revised Definition of Rape Reported in 2013

The FBI revised the definition of forcible rape in 2013. The new definition of rape includes all genders as victims or offenders, it expands upon our previous understanding of sexual penetration, and it no longer requires a physical force component. Under the new definition, Arizona reported 3,050 rapes to police compared to 2,343 forcible rapes in 2013. All trend analysis will continue to include forcible rape data until sufficient rape data is available.

Arrests for Violent Crimes in Arizona

The FBI also collects arrest information from the same law enforcement agencies that submit reported offense data through the UCR program. According to arrest data reported by Arizona agencies, there was a total of 9,493 arrests across the four violent index crimes in CY2013 (Chart 4). A total of 253 arrests were made for murder and non-negligent manslaughter, 265 arrests were made for rape, 1,815 arrests were made for robbery, and 7,160 arrests were made for aggravated assault. The total number of violent index offenses reported in Arizona during CY2013 was 26,892.



* Includes arrests involving rape offenses that fall under the FBI's revised definition of rape.

The FBI collects arrest data for the highest level offense in a hierarchical structure. In other words, the most severe offense is reported while other offenses that occurred during the arrest event are not reported. Therefore, it is possible that a single arrest event reported to the FBI accounts for more than one reported offense. In addition, the crimes for which an individual was arrested in CY2013 may or may not be for an offense that occurred in CY2013.

Violent Crimes Committed with a Firearm

The presence of a firearm during a crime can increase the severity of a violent incident and the likelihood of fatal consequences. In Arizona, the percentage of violent offenses committed with a firearm fell over the ten-year period across all three violent index offenses with available weapon data (Table 1). The percentage of Arizona murders and non-negligent homicides committed using a firearm fell from a ten-year high of 75.9 percent reported in CY2005 to 60.5 percent in CY2013. Arizona's percentage of robberies involving the use of a firearm fell from 50.5 percent in CY2004 to 38.7 percent in CY2013. Aggravated assaults committed with a firearm decreased from 26.6 percent to 23.4 percent over the ten-year period.

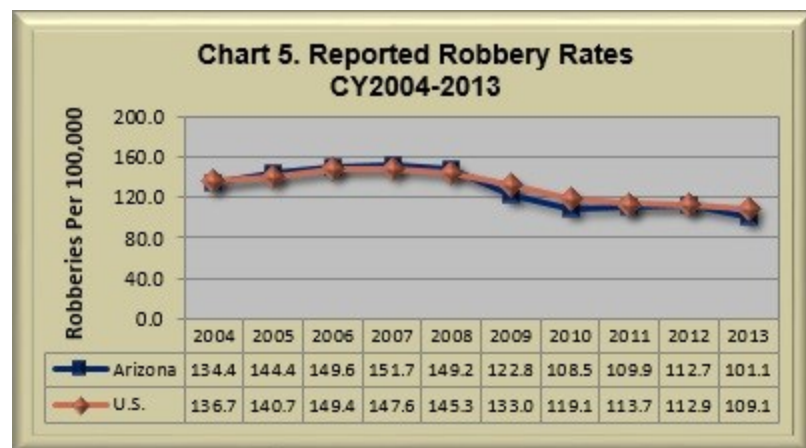
Table 1. Percentage of Violent Crimes¹ Committed with a Firearm, CY2004-2013

	Murder / Non-Negligent Manslaughter		Robbery		Aggravated Assault	
	Arizona	United States	Arizona	United States	Arizona	United States
2004	72.1%	66.0%	50.5%	40.6%	26.6%	19.3%
2005	75.9%	68.0%	54.8%	42.1%	25.8%	21.0%
2006	74.2%	67.9%	49.3%	42.2%	29.5%	21.9%
2007	69.6%	68.0%	49.3%	42.8%	28.7%	21.4%
2008	71.6%	66.9%	51.7%	43.5%	28.5%	21.4%
2009	60.1%	67.1%	45.5%	42.6%	25.4%	20.9%
2010	65.9%	67.5%	44.2%	41.4%	23.6%	20.6%
2011	65.5%	67.7%	44.7%	41.3%	23.6%	21.2%
2012	65.7%	69.3%	42.2%	41.0%	24.3%	21.8%
2013	60.5%	69.0%	38.7%	40.0%	23.4%	21.6%

¹ Percentages were calculated using murders, robberies and aggravated assaults with weapon type provided to the FBI.

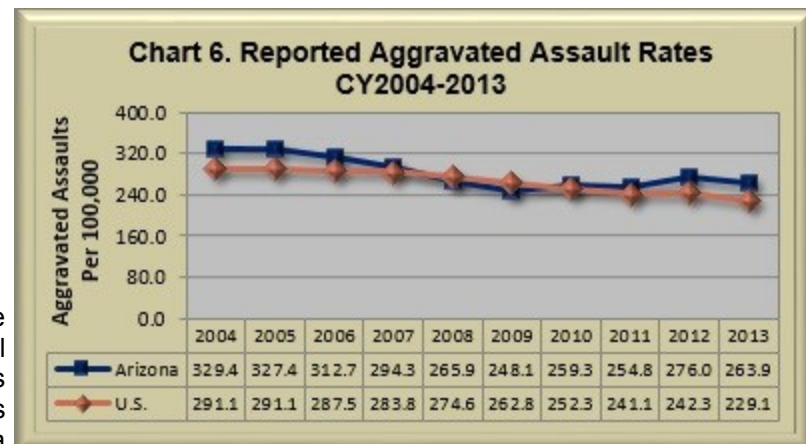
Robberies Reported to Police

From CY2004 to CY2013, Arizona's robbery rate was similar to the rate for the U.S. (Chart 5). From CY2004 to CY2013, the Arizona robbery rate fluctuated, but fell, by 24.8 percent from 134.4 robberies per 100,000 residents in CY2004 to 101.1 in CY2013. The U.S. robbery rate fell from 136.7 in CY2004 to 109.1 in CY2013.



Aggravated Assaults Reported to Police

Both the Arizona and the U.S. aggravated assault rates decreased from CY2004 to CY2013 (Chart 6). Despite an increase from CY2011 to CY2012, the Arizona aggravated assault rate fell from 329.4 in CY2004 to 263.9 in CY2013. The U.S. rate also decreased over the ten-year period from 291.1 in CY2004 to 229.1 in CY2013.



Conclusion

After reporting increases in CY2012, the violent index offense rates in Arizona and for the entire U.S. return to reporting decreases in CY2013. In fact, the overall violent index offense rates fell below levels reported in CY2011. Only one Arizona and U.S. offense rate, the Arizona forcible rape crime rate, increased from CY2012 to CY2013. The percentage of violent index crimes involving the use of a firearm in Arizona decreased across all three reported violent crime categories from CY2012 to CY2013.

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